

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A breathing apparatus comprising:

a tank adapted to contain air under pressure operatively associated with a regulator to enable delivery of said pressurized air to a user of said apparatus during a clean air mode;

a filter/canister system adapted to enable ambient air to pass through a filter medium having a mesh that is sufficient to trap solid particles in ambient air and/or to enable ambient air in need of cleaning to have a residence time in contact with media that is sufficient to decontaminate contaminating vapors and gases from said ambient air to form clean air;

means adapted to move said ambient air into said filter system, through said filter medium in said filter system and thence into operative relationship with a user of the apparatus during a filtered air mode;

a valve assembly operatively associated with said filter system and said tank that is adapted to control the flow of cleaned air from said filter system in said filtered mode and fresh pressurized air from said ~~pressure~~ tank in said clean air mode, such that said pressurized air supplied from said tank actuates said valve assembly from the filtered mode to the clean air mode ~~a user can determine whether to breath cleaned air or pressurized air~~;

~~a switch associated with the means to move and coupled to the valve assembly adapted to control energization of the moving means in conjunction with operation of the valve assembly; and~~

~~conduit means disposed between, and in operative association with, said means to move said ambient air and means directly associated with the user of said apparatus through which air is provided to a user of said apparatus.~~

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising plural filter/decontamination elements.

3. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a face mask adapted to tightly fit a wearer.

4. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the valve assembly includes a first conduit between said tank and said face mask, a second conduit between said filter/canister system and said face mask, and one or more valves operatively associated with said first and second conduits adapted to control the flow of cleaned air from said filter/canister system or air from said tank to said user.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a ~~having~~ one way exhaust valve operatively associated with said face mask.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 19, wherein the switch is user actuatable.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 19, wherein the switch is coupled to the valve assembly to energize the moving means when the valve assembly is set to control the flow of cleaned air from the filter system and to de-energize the moving means when the valve assembly is set to control pressurized air from the pressure tank.

9. (Previously presented) A breathing apparatus comprising:

- a tank adapted to contain air under pressure;
- a regulator coupled to the tank to enable delivery of said pressurized air to a user;
- a filter system adapted to enable ambient air to pass through a filter medium;
- a powered air flow unit that forces ambient air into said filter system, through said filter medium and into operative relationship with a user of the apparatus; and
- a valve assembly operatively associated with said filter system and said tank such that the pressurized air from said tank engages the valve assembly to move the valve assembly from a filtered air position, whereby the filter system delivers filtered air to the user, to a clean air position, whereby the tank delivers pressurized air to the user~~adapted to control flow of cleaned air from said filter system or pressurized air from said tank; and~~
- ~~a switch associated with the powered air flow unit adapted to control energization of the powered air flow unit in conjunction with the operation of the valve assembly.~~

10. (Previously presented) The breathing apparatus of claim 9, further including a face mask adapted to tightly fit a wearer fluidly coupled to the valve assembly.

11. (Previously presented) The breathing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the filter medium includes a mesh that is sufficient to trap solid particles in ambient air.

12. (Previously presented) The breathing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the filter medium includes a media that is sufficient to decontaminate contaminating vapors and gases from ambient air.

13. (Previously presented) The breathing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the valve assembly includes a first conduit disposed between said tank and said face mask, a second conduit disposed between said filter assembly and said face mask, and one or more valves

operatively associated with said first and second conduits to control the flow of cleaned air from said filter assembly or air from said tank to said face mask.

14. (Previously presented) The breathing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the filter medium includes plural filter/decontamination elements.

15. (Currently Amended) The breathing apparatus of claim 10, further ~~including~~ comprising a one way exhaust valve operatively associated with said face mask.

16. (Currently Amended) The breathing apparatus of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 22, wherein the switch is coupled to the valve assembly to energize the powered air flow unit when the valve assembly controls the flow of cleaned air from the filter system and to de-energize the powered air flow unit when the valve assembly controls pressurized air from the pressure tank.

17. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the one or more valves of the valve assembly comprises a valve operatively connected to said second conduit such that said pressurized air supplied from said tank during said clean air mode engages and closes said valve.

18. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 4, wherein said first conduit is connected directly between said regulator and said face mask and said second conduit is connected directly between said filter/canister system and said face mask.

19. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a switch associated with the means to move and coupled to the valve assembly, the switch adapted to control energization of the moving means in conjunction with operation of the valve assembly.

20. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 13, wherein the one or more valves of the valve assembly comprises a valve operatively connected to said second conduit such that said pressurized air supplied from said tank during said clean air mode engages and closes said valve.

21. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 13, wherein said first conduit is connected directly between said regulator and said face mask and said second conduit is connected directly between said filter assembly and said face mask.

22. (New) The breathing apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a switch associated with the powered air flow unit, the switch adapted to control energization of the powered air flow unit in conjunction with the operation of the valve assembly.